

Daily Encouragement – Saturday 18th July

Psalm 106

The psalmist is honest about the sins and unbelief of the Lord's people, of which he is a part.

1 Praise the Lord.- call to worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. Amen!

2 Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord
or fully declare his praise?

3 Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right. Praising God through our actions not just with our lips.

4 Remember me, Lord, when you show favour to your people,
come to my aid when you save them,

5 that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving praise.

6 **We have sinned**, even as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.- much stronger words than just 'I messed up'.

7 When our ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,- they forgot God delivering them from slavery
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

8 Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
to make his mighty power known.

9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
he led them through the depths as through a desert.

10 He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.

11 The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.

12 Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John: 8,9

13 But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold.- forgetting leads to disobedience

14 In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wilderness they put God to the test.

15 So he gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.

16 In the camp they grew envious of Moses
and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the Lord.

17 The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;
it buried the company of Abiram.

18 Fire blazed among their followers;
a flame consumed the wicked.

19 At Horeb they made a calf
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.

20 They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.

21 They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
23 So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.

Moses interceded for his people, standing in the gap between them and God. A picture of the greater work of the Lord Jesus Christ who intercedes for us.

24 Then they despised the pleasant land;
they did not believe his promise.- they didn't believe God would give them the promised land
25 They grumbled in their tents
and did not obey the Lord.
26 So he swore to them with uplifted hand
that he would make them fall in the wilderness,-
27 make their descendants fall among the nations
and scatter them throughout the lands.

28 They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor- worshipping other gods is burdensome
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;
29 they aroused the Lord's anger by their wicked deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.
30 But Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was checked.
31 This was credited to him as righteousness
for endless generations to come.
32 By the waters of Meribah they angered the Lord,
and trouble came to Moses because of them;
33 for they rebelled against the Spirit of God,
and rash words came from Moses' lips.

As a Holy God, God's judgement on sin is right and just.

34 They did not destroy the peoples
as the Lord had commanded them,
35 but they mingled with the nations
and adopted their customs.
36 They worshipped their idols,
which became a snare to them.
37 They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to false gods.-truly shocking
38 They shed innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was desecrated by their blood.
39 They defiled themselves by what they did;
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.- Israel committed spiritual adultery

40 Therefore the Lord was angry with his people
and abhorred his inheritance.
41 He gave them into the hands of the nations,
and their foes ruled over them.
42 Their enemies oppressed them
and subjected them to their power.
43 Many times he delivered them,
but they were bent on rebellion
and they wasted away in their sin.
44 Yet he took note of their distress
when he heard their cry;
45 for their sake he remembered his covenant- God is committed to His people
and out of his great love he relented.

46 He caused all who held them captive
to show them mercy.

47 Save us, Lord our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.

48 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say, "Amen!"

Praise the Lord.

Psalm 105 and 106 contrast God's faithfulness with Israel's unfaithfulness. This psalm tells of God's persistent and persevering love in the face of rebellion and rejection.

Rebellious Israel were shown great mercy by God. Some of their sins may seem shocking to us but all sin is wicked, and we too are rebellious sinners. Praise God that in Christ Jesus we have a great Saviour!

Let us reflect this morning on God's faithfulness to us.

Forever God is faithful- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfiIbymZ-UE>

Adam